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Life in the spy trade

After Britain expelled six Soviet spies in retaliation for the Soviet expulsion of 25 British diplomats in retaliation for the British earlier expelling 25 Russian agents, one of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's secretaries defected, the fifth West German defection in a month.

—News item.

MATAHARIBURG, West Germany—In what diplomatic correspondents termed "a move quite possibly of some significance," half of West Germany's 62 million people today defected to the East, in advance of reports they might be accused of spying.

The other 31 million West Germans had been expelled to East Germany yesterday, having been turned in for spying by the 31 million who defected today.

The expulsions were ordered by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who himself defected to Finland upon disclosures that he was a Finnish agent. Mr. Kohl said he became a Finnish agent only to have a place to defect to when the West German spy scandal reached its ultimate conclusion.

He said he didn't want to defect to East Germany because all 17 million East Germans were in the pay of West Germany and he feared he might get swept back across the border in a mass counterdefection.

Kohl apparently had been tipped off because all 17 million East Germans did indeed defect to the West this morning, disguising themselves as Russian agents. Border guards, used to large scale movements of Russian agents,

Michael Killan

paid them no mind, though traffic delays of up to an hour were reported at Berlin's Checkpoint Charlie.

Kohl's defection came shortly after the West German news magazine *Das Spy* revealed that Mrs. Helmut Kohl was a secret agent in the pay of former Chancellor Willi Brandt. Mrs. Kohl, speaking from Florida's DisneyWorld, where she had sought asylum, said she had actually been hired by Brandt to spy on former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, but, like most Germans, had become confused.

In London, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was said to be fuming at reports that Britain was losing the spy expulsion race, despite her having deported every Russian in the country last month and all of Britain's large Pakistani population last week. A spokesman for the United Nations High Commission on Secret Agent Migration said that the Pakistani expulsions didn't count, as they had been removed for cooking odors rather than espionage.

Reportedly angered by the Soviets' expulsion of the entire British road show cast of "La Cage Aux Folles," which included a number of cabinet and Oxford University faculty members, Mrs. Thatcher was said to be preparing to deport to Romania every Briton who had voted Labour in the last election.

"If they want to vote like Bolsheviks they can bloody well live like

Bolsheviks," she is reported to have said.

Mrs. Thatcher said the deportees would not include Queen Elizabeth and Princess Anne, though they were caught last Wednesday spying on Princess Diana, but would include Lord Peer, the Buckingham Palace valet who was caught taking microfilm photos of Princess Di's cleavage.

A spokesman for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said the Kremlin would not accept any of Mrs. Thatcher's deportees into Romania, as they were planning to expel that country to whomever would have it as soon as they could find a taker. The British deportees would be welcome in Afghanistan, which was running low on population, he said, provided they didn't mind living next to Pakistanis.

The spokesman added that Moscow was hoping to withdraw from the spy expulsion competition for fear that, with all the global transmigrations, it might end up with the several hundred million Chinese Communist Party officials who had reached the mandatory Chinese retirement age of 68.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency said he didn't think the enemy had gotten hold of any secrets in all the shifts as "I don't think there are now any secrets left in the world."

He said a briefcase containing the secret plans to the defunct DIVAD anti-aircraft gun was destroyed when trampled underfoot at Checkpoint Charlie, but it didn't matter because the briefcase "belonged to a Russian agent who was trying to slip the plans back to us."